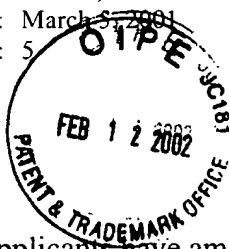


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REMARKS

Applicants have amended the application to cancel claims 1-13 and have added claims 14-26. Please consider these newly added claims prior to examination. Applicants have also replaced the abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 28, 2001

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Version with markings to show changes made

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In the claims:

Claims 1-13 have been cancelled.

Claims 14-26 have been added as follows:

-- 14. (New) A method for distributing a data traffic load on a communication network with an extensive range of network nodes connected via a link line, the method comprising:

ascertaining a current data transfer loading value for the link line or a network node using a data traffic monitoring system;

determining and sending distribution information for the network node based on the current data transfer loading value using the data traffic monitoring system;

generating an allocation model used to divide an address information of data packets into separate address classes assigned to a plurality of alternative routes leading to a destination network node using the network node wherein each based on the distribution information; and

ascertaining the address class from the address information and sending the data packets via one of the alternative routes assigned to the address class ascertained when the network node has received the data packet addressed to the destination network node.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising ascertaining the data transfer loading values using a routing protocol in the communication network.

16. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising sending link line specific or route specific loading information relating to the link lines to the data traffic monitoring system to allow data transfer loading value to be ascertained.

17. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising transferring data packets having different transfer priorities and sending transfer priority specific loading information to

the data traffic monitoring system using the network node to allow the data transfer loading value to be ascertained.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising ascertaining a transfer priority specific distribution information using the data traffic monitoring system and sending the distribution information to the network node which distributes data packets having a transfer priority in accordance with the distribution information defined for the transfer priority.

19. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising determining destination network node distribution information for the network node and sending the destination network node distribution information to the network node.

20. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising extrapolating the previously ascertained data transfer loading value or the previously ascertained distribution information to determine distribution information relative to time.

21. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the distribution information for the network node comprises quota details that specify, for each route in a group of alternative routes leading from the network node to the destination network node, a proportion of the data packets addressed to the destination network node that is transferred over one of the alternative routes.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising using a random number generator weighed in accordance with quota details for assigning the data packet addressed to the destination network node to one of the alternative routes for transfer.

23. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the address information comprises source address information identifying the sender of the data packet.

24. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising allocating the address class based on stored address information from the data packets transmitted previously.

25. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising determining one of the alternative routes for the network node based on the data transfer loading value ascertained using the data traffic monitoring system and sending route information describing the one of the alternative routes to the network node.

26. (New) A communication network comprising:
a plurality of network nodes connected via link lines including:
an allocation facility for creating an allocation model based on sent distribution information and for dividing an address information of data packets into separate address classes each address class being assigned to one of a number of alternative routes leading to a particular destination network node; and
a data packet distribution facility for ascertaining the address class of the address information of the data packet to be transferred and for transferring the data packet via the route assigned to the address class; and
a data-traffic-monitoring system including:
an information-capture facility for ascertaining the current data transfer loading value for the link lines or the network node;
an analysis facility for determining distribution information for the network node based on the data transfer loading value ascertained; and
a transmission facility to send the distribution information to the network nodes. --

In the abstract:

Replace the abstract with the following version.

-- A method for distributing a data traffic load on a communication network with an extensive range of network nodes connected via a link line. The method includes ascertaining a current data transfer loading value for the link line or a network node using a data traffic monitoring system, determining and sending distribution information for the network node based on the current data transfer loading value using the data traffic monitoring system, generating an

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allocation model used to divide an address information of data packets into separate address classes assigned to alternative routes leading to a destination network node using the network node wherein each based on the distribution information, and ascertaining the address class from the address information and sending the data packets via one of the alternative routes assigned to the address class ascertained when the network node has received the data packet addressed to the destination network node. --